

Quote

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WITHIN THE WEEK

The oft-repeated speculation that the channel invasion is being held up awaiting certain attainment points on other fronts, is probably a reversal of the actual military situation. It is more likely that moves elsewhere have been delayed to correlate with the Big Plunge. Now that the operation has been completed (and the general pattern of facts well known to the enemy) it can be said that one thing which has delayed the invasion is the matter of re-designing our landing craft. In recent Pacific island landings we learned a costly lesson concerning the perils of open landing barges. As a result, the invasion strategy has been substantially altered. More than this cannot be said at the moment, but this alteration of plans does, in part, explain a delay that has mystified many.

An interesting sidelight on the coming invasion is the fact that some of the battle craft damaged at Pearl Harbor, and subsequently repaired, will be used as burden-bearers in the cross-channel trek. So rapidly has the pace been accelerated in the Pacific that these heavy ships no longer have value there. They are out-dated. The carrier is now the thing in our warfare against the Japs.

ITALY: Tho recent headlines have sought to give an impression that Allied occupation of Rome is

imminent, we see no reason to alter our opinion of last wk. It is going to take time—almost certainly a matter of wks—to clear the enemy from s Italy, and gain unquestioned domination of the Eternal City.

When the Italian campaign is observed in clearer perspective, some yrs since, it will be seen that it has accomplished much more than is immediately visible. Since the 1st Allied landings, we have pointed out that Nazis *could* make Italy a protracted battleground should they elect to pour in the troops. This was part of our strategy. Gen Clark has succeeded brilliantly in tying down up to 25 Nazi divisions. War dep't is well pleased.

RUSSIA: Main body of Red Army has now been inactive for longest stretch since German attack, 3 yrs ago this mo. Important moves are, of course, impending. Moscow this wk reported German offensive in Iasi region of Rumania. This is significant because Reds will probably launch drive there aimed at Galati Gap route to Danube valley. German attack was probably attempt to disrupt. However, there appears sound basis for belief that heaviest summer fighting of Reds will probably be in Poland. That's where Germany started the war, and it's logical Russian road to Berlin.



SHIFTING SANDS

For the next few mo's you will hear and read a great deal concerning the coming prevalence of unemployment—unless certain preventive measures are taken. It is impossible to say how much of this talk has a political base, and how much results from sincere apprehension. Democratic leaders are not averse to channeling nat'l thought toward viewing Administration as protector. Another force is CIO Political Action Committee under Hillman. For practical purposes, it is pro-Roosevelt; has virtually unlimited fund for "educational" purposes. CIO claims to influence 14 million voters (mbrs and families) but it is too early to say what they can actually deliver. . . . Chances for used-car ceiling do not appear as good now as few mo's ago. OPA still sees need, but enforcement is the rub. Will Congress vote enough money? Increasing concern given to dealer view that move would spur blk mkt. If order does not come in 30 days, chances against it.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

"That Judge Lynch has appeared in Germany shows that desperation has taken hold." — *Aftonbladet*, Stockholm daily, commenting editorially on story of reported lynching of U S flier by German mob.

" "

"I'm all for the gorgeous American girls!"—Cap't DON GENTILE, U S ace, home (Piqua, O) on 30-day leave, announcing his intention of marrying one of 'em (Isabel Masdea, childhood playmate).

" "

"They (the Germans) have suffered defeat after defeat in our country. I therefore order all units . . . in Yugoslavia to strike immediately with all their might against German garrisons and military strongholds."—Marshal TITO, commanding Yugoslavia's Partisan forces.

" "

"When children see their parents dissolve a marriage union in a few minutes in a courtroom, how will they, as adults, approach the institution of marriage?"—Judge ROBT JEROME DUNNE, seeking transfer from Chicago's divorce court because he cannot reconcile his beliefs with wholesale granting of divorces.

" "

"The ruling of Att'y-Gen'l Biddle (okaying activities of CIO Political Action Committee) makes a shambles of all law to control expenditures in nat'l campaigns. Under his ruling the sky is the limit. If this action is correct, I favor farm co-operatives and other organizations raising unlimited funds to fight the 4th term and New Dealers."—Sen HUGH BUTLER, Neb, introducing a resolution calling for investigation of CIO political activities.

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"Oh, yes, we find local Fascist officials in these towns, but we never find any important Fascists."—Allied Military Gov't officer, with 5th Army in Lepini Mtns of Italy, commenting on point that "big fish" are fleeing wrath of townfolk as they lose Nazi military protection.

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"I have never liked the Little Steel formula. . . I attended its baptism; I participated in its confirmation; and by the grace of God, I hope to be at its wake."—PHILLIP MURRAY, pres, CIO.

" "

"Racism hinders our solution of social problems by diverting our efforts from finding a solution to finding a scapegoat." — FRANK MURPHY, associate justice, U S Supreme Court.

" "

"How shall you treat the ret'g soldier? Unless you want to disrupt the orderly process of adjustment, treat him in a normal manner—no more and no less."—Dr A M LYON, director of mental hygiene, state of Ky.

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"I just got sick of Benchley's stuff!"—ROBT BENCHLEY, popular humorist, explaining why he has written nothing in past 4 yrs. (However, Benchley, who often appears in movies, denies Hollywood report that he has "retired" from writing craft.)

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"A few Southern papers didn't like the 'Yankee' term applied to Mr Dewey."—Spokesman for N Y County Republican Committee, commenting on their proposed campaign song, "Yankee Dewey Dandy." So committee now has a new one, sung to strains of Dixie.

" "

"The need for the participation of women in war is part of the need for a total people in total war. The obligation is laid upon us all. . . This obligation . . . cannot be met by waiting for victory in a vacuum."—Col OVETA CULP HOBBY, director, WAC, addressing graduates at Wesleyan College.

"If present business continues thruout the season, there's every reason to believe the league will approach the good old days when we used to play annually to a million people or more." — BILLY EVANS, pres, Southern Ass'n, expressing satisfaction over attendance at baseball games.

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"The struggle south of Rome must be fought with our own local reserves. The German command is prepared to surrender territory in Italy rather than weaken the Western Front for even a single moment."—War Analyst for TRANS-OCEAN, Nazi propaganda agency.

" "

"I figured both the seeds and I were American; if I could take it, so could they." — Cpl CYRIL E TREICHLER, Grand Junction, Colo, harvesting crops from his 1st Victory Garden, planted on a tiny atoll of the Marshall Islands.

" "

"Of course one of the first things I want to do is to get married. And then, too, I want a chocolate malted milk. I guess I'll get the malted first."—Sgt JOHN WARNOCK, of Kansas City, Mo, planning a coming furlough. He's now on Italian front.

" "

"This baby almost got me, and since he married your beautiful forehead, please send me a substitute picture."—A Serviceman ret'g to actress GAIL PATRICK a bullet-marked photo of herself. She sent another picture.

" "

Our nation is engaged in a titanic war against discriminations and injustices to small peoples and small nations everywhere. Georgia and the South should be readmitted to the Union on a basis of full fellowship—and equality." — Gov ELLIS ARNALL, of Ga, directing action in U S Supreme Court to correct "discriminatory" freight rate tariffs. Suit, filed in name of Western & Atlantic Ry, is possible because Ga is only state owning a railroad. South has long railed against freight rates which leaders contend place her shippers at economic disadvantage. Gen'l consensus: Gov ARNALL isn't likely to garner much of value except publicity.

"Whereas, 18 mo's ago we had a shoestring, now we have a good-sized boot."—Adm'l Wm F HALSEY, Jr, discussing Allied position in the Pacific.

"On D Day, every game in the Internat'l League will be cancelled. I have two boys over there and on that day I am going to church and then I am going home."—FRANK SHAUGHNESSY, pres, Internat'l (baseball) League.

"Nobody gets mad as long as you give 'em the old oil!"—TED ANDRUS, of San Francisco traffic bureau. He tours city streets, kidding pedestrians out of sudden death. They take his paternal chiding—and like it.

"This will be a long war. When you're asked to buy a bond in the 5th war loan, remember it's a privilege. And remember, too, that you are going to be asked to buy bonds in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th war loans."—Cap't Edw V RICKENBACKER, addressing Memorial Day service at Kansas City, sponsored by American War Dads.

"Public opinion has become inflamed against our union because of recent unauthorized strikes in war plants. The union cannot survive if the nation and our soldiers believe that we are obstructing the war effort."—R J THOMAS, internat'l pres, UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS (CIO), appealing to membership to "obey our constitution and the no-strike pledges made by our conventions."

"Who is right, the murderer who still expects to be treated humanly, or the defenseless victims who want to defend themselves? It is too much to ask for us to defend with German soldiers the murderers of our children from the mad rage of the parents."—JOS GOEBBELS, Nazi Propaganda Minister, threatening to unleash the "mad rage" of German civilians against Allied airmen shot down over Nazi territory. DNB news agency, passing out statement added further quotation from Goebbels: "99% of enemy bombs dropped in terror raids hit civilian population; 1% hit our war plants."

"No one is emotionally mature who has any type of racial prejudice; growth is stopped at this point."—LILLIAN E SMITH, author widely-discussed *Strange Fruit*.

"If everybody had their way about withdrawal of men from the armed forces, we would not have any armed forces." — HUMPHREY MITCHELL, Canada's Minister of Labor.

"Enormous preparations are under way in the Pacific. More islands will soon be taken. Relief is approaching for the starving prisoners of Bataan."—WARREN H ATHERTON, commander of American Legion, in a prepared statement, following a tour of the Central Pacific area.

"If McCreary had been Paul Revere, the U S would still be a British colony."—Caustic comment from the gallery, as jockey CONN MCCREARY, riding star of Ky Derby and Preakness, took a Memorial day defeat in Suburban handicap at N Y's Belmont Pk.

"I guess I don't have any control over that." — Gov THOS E DEWEY, of N Y, answering soldier who, at a Hershey, Pa gathering asked: "Are you going to run for President?" (The soldier was prompted by a newspaperman. Gov's response is nearest he has yet come to a will-or-won't answer.)

"I think the people resent Pres Roosevelt dropping 'Dr New Deal' for 'Dr Win-the-War'. The Star Spangled Banner does not belong to one individual or party. The winning of the war is a nonpartisan job in which Republicans and Democrats are equally interested."—ALF LONDON, '36 Republican Presidential nominee.

"They give us a hick-town look? So what? There's nothing the matter with a small-town Main-street atmosphere. I was born in a small town that had one."—Mayor GEO B PATTERSON, of St Petersburg, Fla, answering critics who want to do away with the green benches that line St Pete's Central ave.

"Keep 5 yds apart, or eat C rations!"—Ultimatum displayed at an AEF field kitchen on Italian front. (Even in mess line, men must spread out to keep down casualty rate from enemy shelling.)

"I'm not going back to that school until that teacher is gone. I'm an American and I don't believe in race hatred. She tells me I killed Christ—and I'm only 11 and he lived 2000 yrs ago."—ELEANOR MELD, Jewish school-girl, N Y City, discussing her anti-Semitic 6th-grade teacher.

"In the future, I'll keep both ends down!"—Pvt JOHN D COLLIS, struck by shrapnel while crawling thru lines with a stretcher to aid a wounded comrade. In an earlier letter to his mother he had told her not to worry, saying, "I'll keep my head down."

"There is absolutely no exaggeration in the statement that the waste paper in American mfg plants and in obsolete files may be as deciding an influence in the war's outcome as the mobilizing of the fleet of pleasure craft that saved the British at Dunkirk."—Rear Adm'l HARRY L BRINSER, U S N.



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COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

The "Why" of Censorship
WALTER LIPPMANN

Naturally, the high command can say nothing whatever about the disposition of our forces.

Although the enemy may know a good deal about this important matter, he almost certainly does not know *all* about it. What is even more important, if he cannot be *entirely* sure when his information is correct and when it is not, he is beset with doubt about even his correct information.

For reasons like this, the censorship is entirely justified in withholding information about military movements which, it would seem, must be known to practically everyone, and certainly to energetic enemy agents. It is very useful to keep the enemy command wondering just how far it can rely upon the reports of various agents.

In our own estimates of the enemy position, there is, of course, bound to be some incorrect information mixed with correct information. If our estimates were published, the enemy would know at once when we are discovering his secrets, and this would soon tell him how we were discovering them, and he would act to seal the leaks.

Nevertheless, the broad alignment and the proportion of forces in the various theatres of war are not much of a secret. It is in not providing civilians with a reasonably clear picture of the general military situation—where the Japanese and German forces are, and how the United Nations forces are arrayed to deal with them—that official reticence interferes most seriously with adequate public understanding of the war.—Abridged from Mr. Lippmann's newspaper column.

ADVERTISING

You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements.—NORMAN DOUGLAS, quoted in "Schoolmaster's Classroom," *Printers' Ink*.

AMBITION—Attained

A brigadier-gen'l got out of his chair at the barber-shop in the Bismarck hotel, whereupon a young man, about to take his place, slapped him jovially on the back, inquiring "Hyah, pal. How's the war going?"

The flabbergasted gen'l flushed and swung around. Then the young man exclaimed. He had been a lieutenant in anti-aircraft. While in the hospital, before being discharged, he had discussed with fellow officers "the 1st thing we want to do when we again become civilians."

The lieutenant, it developed, had just accomplished his ambition: to slap a gen'l on the back, ask him how the war is getting on.

The brigadier-gen'l laughed, remarked that in same position he'd be looking for a four-star gen'l!—DALE HARRISON, *Chicago Sun*.

AMERICA—Achievements

The people are doing all right. The Americans in war have never been so well informed, armed, fed. America... never did a better fighting job before. And despite... the grumbling which only sounds louder than the production, no Americans at war were ever so well prepared to make an intelligent peace. What the hell are the writers or anybody else apologizing for? — JONATHAN DANIELS, in "Strictly Personal" dept *Sat Rev of Lit*.

BOOKS

T Y Crowell Co. publishers, has sound reason to know that the vaunted vocabulary of the tough Army sergeant is no myth. They had a letter from one the other day. He had sent a dollar thru the mail for a copy of *Tall Tales They Tell in the Services*. He rec'd a juvenile titled, *Telltime, the Rabbit*.

CONTENTMENT

To be content with what you have is difficult if you have not enough, and impossible if you have too much.—JOS MAYER, *The Impolite Mirror*, (Island Press).

DIET

The Greeks of Homer's time, writes H E Jacobs, in *Six Thousand Yrs of Bread*, were contemptuous of the Scythians, who ate oats like their horses. The Romans cherished the same contempt for the oat-eating Germans. Any many centuries later, Sam'l Johnson, in his English dictionary, defined oats as "food for men in Scotland, horses in England." To which, it is said, the indignant Scots replied, "England is noted for the excellence of her horses, Scotland for the excellence of her men."—*Reading & Writing*.

DRINK—Drinking

WPB translating the total usage of alcohol in rubber production into drinkable terms, estimates that 150 million highballs a day are being poured into the synthetic rubber program.—*Parade*.

They Said It In a Sentence

One man with courage makes a majority.—ANDREW JACKSON.

Art is life seen through a temperament.—EMILE ZOLA.

An American kneels only to his god.—WILLIAM CRITTENDEN.

They only deserve a monument who do not need one.—WILLIAM HAZLITT.

Religion is not an intelligence test, but a faith.—E W HOWE.

The noblest motive is the public good.—RICHARD STEELE.

To choose time is to save time.—FRANCIS BACON.

—*Good Housekeeping*.

ENEMY—Treatment of

I was awaiting my turn in a London shop. A customer in the line ahead of me was telling the shopkeeper about a Nazi airman who had baled out and been captured by the customer's colleague.

"What did they do with him while they were waiting for the police?" asked the shopkeeper.

"Oh, they dumped the blighter in a chair and gave him a cup of tea," said the customer.

If some think that weakness they would be much mistaken; for the strong are merciful, those who are assured of victory—as we are.—VIOLET LANE, "Report from London," *Good Business*, 6-44.

FRIENDSHIP

The late Wm K. Vanderbilt was a philosopher. One day when it was reported to him that a rye in great difficulty had been deserted by men who should have helped it, he said: "Friends stick to you like your shadow—but of course only when the sun shines."

HONESTY—Reward

An Army private liked his furlough and wanted more. Resourcefully, he wired his commanding officer:

"No death, no emergency. Request extension of furlough. Having wonderful time."

Having heard all the usual alibis, his commanding officer responded:

"Reward for honesty extension of five days on present furlough granted."—*The Wolfe Magazine of Letters*, hm Wolfe Envelope Co.

IDEAS—Resistance to

It has been wisely pointed out that a man's age can be measured by the degree of pain he feels when he comes in contact with a new idea.—*Mass Transportation*.

INGENUITY

The Stage Door Canteen always has on hand a recording of *The Star Spangled Banner*. Whenever servicemen begin to fight, the record is played, the men come to attention.—**LEONARD LYONS**.

INSTRUCTION—Music

A mother brought her young daughter to Massenet to find out if the child had any talent as a pianist. Massenet listened to the girl's playing and then said to the mother, "Madame, your daughter plays in the true Christian spirit. Her left hand doesn't know what her right hand is doing."—**RICHARD WILLIAMS**, "The Laughs in Music," *House Beautiful*, 6-'44.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES—**Ingenuity**

A British airman was escaping across France when police began checking all passersby. A French peasant with voluminous skirts called him to her, made him kneel down, and, spreading her skirts, sat down on him. The police passed by.—**UP** dispatch.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES—**Resistance**

Concerning postage stamps bearing the likenesses of Hitler and Mussolini, the Viennese remark, "They don't stick very well. You see, people will spit on the wrong side."—*N Y Times Magazine*.

PATRIOTISM—Feminine

While inspecting an Ala bag-loading plant, Rep Engel, of Mich, was told of the extreme care taken to prevent staining white linen bags which are filled with powder for howitzer shells. Any bags stained while being filled are emptied and thrown away because of the possibility of a chemical reaction which might explode the powder.

"We had a big mystery around here several mo's ago," a plant foreman related. "Red stains were found on bags. We couldn't figure what caused them. Finally, a chemical analysis revealed the secret.

"Some of our girl employes had been giving those bags of powder a good-luck kiss and saying, 'Now, get me a Jap!'"—**DREW PEARSON**, *Washington Merry-Go-Round*.

POPULATION—Decline

Race Suicide: two-car garages and one-child nurseries.—*Judge*.

PRIVILEGE

Maj Foster, mbr of a British mission to the U S, is surprised at the number of cocktail parties to which he is invited in Washington. At one recently a dowager asked:

"But what about the privileged classes in England?"

"Madam," responded the major, "are you speaking of your countrymen? At the present time the Americans are the only privileged class in England."—*Chicago Sun*.

PUNISHMENT—Enemies

Would it not be more sensible to accept the present-day German and Jap for what he is, and drive it into his skull not only that wars don't pay, but that mass murder of civilians and prisoners can no more escape punishment than an individual murder down the street?—**WM L SHIRER** (author, *Berlin Diary*.)



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

Recent surveys indicate from 90 to 100 per cent of male graduates this yr will go directly into armed services. A very few are being deferred for highly specialized industrial work in connection with war effort. And there's a sprinkling of 4-F's. Those available can pick their jobs—there are from 10 to 20 choice opportunities per man.

A study of traffic records is developing a pattern which leads public safety directors toward conclusion that elderly driver may represent above-average traffic hazard. Some are saying driver beyond age of 65 requires more rigid supervision; perhaps even annual examination to determine whether faculties are impaired.

As anticipated, nation's birth rate is rapidly declining from wartime peak of Jan '43 will continue downward for war's duration, perhaps even reaching historic low—a point that will not replace population.

The magazine *Look* is launching new-type biographical sketch in which subject makes marginal notes correcting and clarifying points made by biographer. Leland Stowe leads off with sketch of Roy Howard, Scripps-Howard newspaper head. Most interesting note: Howard's explanation of the "false armistice" notice cabled from Brest, France.

Akron, O, Eagles this wk held 1st "swing-shift" initiation, taking in 100 candidates at 7 a m ceremony. . . . Disbanded after yr's inactivity: informal Hollywood group comprising actors who have played role of Mussolini. . . . To further paper conservation, WPB suggests campaign to eliminate superstition against "three on a match."



APPAREL: Merchant tailors are already thinking in terms of ret'g servicemen. They believe veterans used to roomy garments, will make comfort No 1 consideration for new civilian apparel. Zippers for all closures are now taken as matter of course. Proposed innovations include business coat with zippered pleats which release to convert garment into lounging jacket. Zippered pleats in vests and trousers also considered, to release strains. Conventional trouser cuff, they believe, will be out.

MEDICINE: It is too soon to draw conclusions on curative qualities of new drug, *sulfabamide*, developed for treatment of tuberculosis, but reports submitted to Am Soc for Clinical Investigation appear at least to substantiate belief that no ill effects attend its use. Doses totaling nearly an oz have been given within 16 hrs. Other patients have rec'd up to 2000 grams (5 lbs) in 16 mo's without harm. Patients dosed over sustained periods gain weight; tuberculosis germs disappear from sputum; x-ray shows lung resolution. Differs from other sulfa drugs in that it has a fatty acid linked to it; is soluble in fatty materials.

SURGERY: For 1000 yrs man has sought to understand, cure insanity. One of more promising operations is prefrontal lobotomy. Not a new technique in treatment of schizophrenia, but Drs Freeman and Watts, of Washington, rep'ted new evidence at Phila meet of Am Psychiatric Ass'n. More than half patients treated over period of yrs now lead useful lives; only 15% remain in mental hospitals. Brain is cut, but no part removed. Results depend on degree of emotional tension. "Battle is lost only when patient stops fighting."

RACES—Negro

The Negro's ability to make the best of a bad deal from which there seemed no possible escape will always be one of America's strange romances.—JAS H HUBERT.

RATIONING—Purpose

... without rationing, the fuel tanks of a few would be full; the fuel tanks of many would be empty. . . Allocation, or rationing is designed to eliminate such inequalities and to treat all alike who are similarly situated. The burdens are thus shared equally and it'd supplies are utilized for the benefit of the greatest number.—From a recent ruling of the U S Supreme Court.

RESPONSIBILITY—Personal

None of us is responsible for all the things that happen to us, but we are responsible for the way we behave when they do happen.

SAFETY—Safe Driving

A motorist was 100 yds from an open level ry crossing and was proceeding at 50 mi per hr. A train was also approaching at 60 mi per hr, and its distance from the crossing was 375 ft. Problem: Did the motorist get across?

Solution: Yes, the motorist got a cross. His widow bought it out of the insurance money.—*Capper's Wkly*.

SALESMANSHIP—Modern

A salesman came home the other evening and dropped wearily into his favorite chair.

"What a day!" he sighed. "I had a lot of hard, tough customers, but I talked them out of buying!"

SECRECY—Gov't

The War Dep't has so many files under the heading of "secrets" that it has had to label some "top secrets."—*Bakers Review*.

SERVICEMEN—Treatment

Servicemen resent being gypped; they resent the smugness of those who are safe at home, and most of all they resent being thought suckers. These "punks" as boys call the gougers, represent the big cities to them, and their anger may well carry over into the postwar period.—JOS SUGARMAN, "Nothing For The Boys," *Common Sense*, 5-44.

SLUMS—Costliness of

Although slum and blighted districts comprise about 20% of the metropolitan residential areas, they acc't for 33% of the population; 45% of major crimes; 55% of juvenile delinquency; 50% of arrests; 60% of tuberculosis victims; 50% of disease; 35% of fires; 45% of city service costs. And the real estate yields only 6% of the tax revenues. These are adjusted averages for cities thruout the country.—From a pamphlet, *Postwar Urban Redevelopment* issued by Federal Works Agency.

SPEECH—Speaking

The late Wm Allen White attended a testimonial dinner, during which the toastmaster, in introducing speakers, spoke longer than the persons introduced.

When, finally, it came White's turn, he began: "There are times when I enjoy playing with huge numbers. Right now, statistics regarding toastmasters keep running thru my mind. It just struck me that if every toastmaster were placed end to end—it would be a really excellent thing."—E E EDGAR, *Familiar Fables*.

SORROW—as Mentor

Open your mind and your heart to the realization that sorrow is God's way of helping us to grow up . . . and to grow near to all the rest of the world.—ELSIE ROBINSON, syndicated col.

STRATEGY

Edw Bok, well-remembered magazine editor, once set out thousands of crocus plants along the highway adjoining his home.

"It's foolish to plant flowers beyond your fence," he was warned. "People will only steal them."

But Bok was prepared. He set up a conspicuous sign: "These flowers are under the protection of the public." Not a blossom was ever taken.—*Read*.

TALENTS—Use of

Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except those who sang the best.—*Confederation Life Bulletin*.

God's Front Porch

KETTI FRINGS says she wrote this slim little novel, *God's Front Porch* (Morrow, \$2) to answer the question on everyone's mind: "What the Hell is going on in Heaven that they permit this Mess on Earth!" It is a fantasy of Heaven—a most unorthodox heaven—yet, withal, a tender, reverent, understanding chronicle.

"I wish I could speak to Him," Corporal Pinky Harrison had said, there in the foxhole. "... close, I mean. . . not just praying. I'd tell Him a thing or two. I—I'd march right up to his front porch and—"

And here we find Pinky on that front porch—his thoughts turning to Martha, and to the Baby, only a few hrs old. Bitter and unreconciled, he reflects upon the Thing that has cut him off from earthly interests; brought him thus untimely to Heavenly Bend Junction.

They sat in silence for a while. Then suddenly: "Father, why don't you destroy all that mess down there?"

"That's what they don't understand. I'm not a destructive person, Pinky. I've tried, I just can't."

"But if you just got angry a little."

"Oh, I've been angry—" and the old man told him about all the times that he'd brought storms and floods, but how it hadn't done any good. "They just won't listen to that anymore."

"Maybe a miracle?"

"There's even less hope for that. Don't you realize, Pinky, how they've out-miracled me for the last half century?"

Never had Pinky felt so sorry for him as he did now, and yet the old man wasn't really bitter about it. He told Pinky of how he had once opened the sea, and of how man now drew music and words right out of the air. He mentioned the visions that he'd shown them down thru the yrs. . . and yet what were visions compared to the miracle of seeing something in a tiny box that was happening hundreds of mi's away? "And my lightning. . . my

poor old lightning—they've got something. . . called the death ray, that sure puts my lightning in the shade. Of course, the ray is a bad miracle, but that's the kind they like. They've got loads of those."

As the old man went on, enumerating all the bad miracles, Pinky came to a conclusion, interrupted: "Maybe the Baby shouldn't live—not in a world like that."

The old man's brows drew together fiercely: "No Pinky, don't ever say that again. Don't ever give up."

Pinky felt guilty and ashamed. . . and suddenly inspired. If the old man hadn't given up yet, with all he had to lose, then he wouldn't either.

Faintly, in the distance, they heard the weird ghostly shriek of air-raids sirens.

"There they go again," God said quietly.

They listened for what seemed like ages till the noise finally silenced.

"Lights going off again all over the world." God shook his head, then looked up at the sky, and a glow of pride came into his eyes and into his voice: "They'll never put my stars out though!"

aspects of human beings. War is corny. He who does not understand sentiment and sentimentality cannot express war values for the multitude.—PHILIP WYLIE, in a new dep't "Strictly Personal," *Sat Rev of Lit*, 4-15-'44.

EDUCATION—Youth

The battle station for youth is the schoolroom.—Col HANS CHRISTIAN ADAMSON, U S Army Air Forces.



GEMS FROM

Yesteryear

Mountain of Skulls

WM ELLERY LEONARD

You may have seen in public prints an acc't of the death of WM ELLERY LEONARD, professor of English at the U of Wis. He was victim of a tragic phobia which, in later yrs, kept him virtually a prisoner in the university grounds. But, eccentricities aside, Prof Leonard was a poet of uncommon sensitivity, notably in his tirades against social injustice. This selection is an excerpt from a long poem, written at the conclusion of the First World War. The author died last month, in his 68th yr.

Know you the Mountain of the Skulls

At the red river of the Great Moguls. . . ?

. . . By this vast generation, robbed of light,

Of flowers, of children, poesy, and song—

In name of future good, to right. . . (So we have said) . . . to right the present wrong—

By all the dead of all the lands, We'll swear this Mountain stands, In Kingdom of Great Death forever stands,

To speak of Life one word forevermore,

On every sea and shore:

No League of Peace (though that awhile might save,

If one same law upon each capitol, Upon each arch and architrave, Were clearly, deeply carved),

No League nor Law will do:

But those despised few

In every land who did refuse each call—

The dungeon-chained, the dungeon-starved—

Must be the prophets of the New Until the few are all.

VALUES—in Wartime

"What! You offer me only \$1800 for this car! You're crazy—I paid \$1400 for it new."—*New Yorker*.

WAR—Interpretation

Since war focuses the feelings of the whole people upon one objective. . . no pure intellectual can be its spiritual leader, but only a man who also understands the irrational

Some friends of mine were motor-ing in N J and ran out of gas late in the evening. They put up at a primitive small-town hotel for the night. There were no electric lights; only candles. The bedroom proved to be so infested with Jersey mos-quitoes that sleep was impossible. One of the boys suggested a way to get rid of the pests. As they were squatted all over the ceiling, it would be a simple matter to light the candles and burn them up. So they lit candles, stood on a table and proceeded to put the plan into action. It worked fairly well until one outside specimen, feeling the heat, turned around and blew out the candle!—Contributed by HUGH A GALT.

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A luckless private, weary and weobegone, ducked into a foxhole in the sw-Pacific, barely in time to dodge a Jap barrage.

Sitting there in mud and water to his waist, he wailed dismally, "Oh-h-h, I wisht I was a civilian!"

At this point he realized for the 1st time that he was sharing shelter with another. Turning his head a bit he observed the insignia of a major on his companion's shoulder. Somewhat disconcerted, he added lamely, "I - I mean, sir, a *postwar* civilian!"

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Marie Corelli, the English novelist, lived next to a music teacher to whom she wrote: "Miss Corelli would be greatly obliged if Miss Blank's pupils did not practice between the hours of ten and one in the morning, as it is during those hours that Miss Corelli does her literary work."

Answered the teacher: "Miss Blank has received Miss Corelli's note, and if she thought that her pupils' practice would prevent Miss Corelli doing any more literary work, they should practice all day."—*Vogue*.

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A church custodian, with a record of long and harmonious service, was once asked how he managed to get along with the various women's groups who held frequent meetings in the bldg.

"Oh," he replied philosophically, "I jest git in neutral and let 'em push me about."

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

HUGH GIBSON

Back before the turn of the century, Stephen Bonsal, author of *Unfinished Business*, made a trip to Mexico and dropped in to see a Mexican politician he had known yrs before.

The old gentleman was much affected by this gesture of Col Bonsal's, and in the course of their conversation mentioned another American whom he had known in earlier days.

"I wish I could remember his name," mused the Mexican. "Brilliant man. An Army officer. I've often wondered what became of him." Then he brightened as a thought occurred to him. "I have a book he once gave me. Perhaps the name is written in it."

Together, they sought and found the volume. The inscription read: "To my very good friend, Porfiria Gomes." It was signed, "Robt E Lee."

A small boy had been listening to a story of Abraham Lincoln. Entranced, he turned to his mother the unquenchable ambition of men of five years, and cried: "Moms, I'd like to be President of the United States one day if I don't get too old before this man Roosevelt is thru."—MARCIA WINN, *Chicago Tribune*.

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In Berlin, the current air raid-shelter joke has two Germans meeting in the street.

"How are things going with you?" asks one.

"Not so badly," responds the other. "Why only last night, the achtung program on the radio (air-raid warning) was interrupted three times for a bit of music."—*Chicago Daily News*.

A man rushed into a bar and asked the bartender, who was removing the dew from the bar, if he knew anything that would stop hiccoughs. His answer was a slap across the face with a wet towel. Surprised and furious, the stranger demanded the reason for such action. With a placating grin the bartender replied, "Well, you haven't any hiccoughs now, have you?"

"Never did have," was the indignant answer. "I wanted something for my wife. She's out in the car."



The fellow who blows his horn the loudest is likely in the biggest fog.—*Banking*.

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Leap frog is now all the style in the Pacific, with American troops doing the leaping and the Japs doing the croaking.—*Grit*.

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Any day now, for the Junker gen's comes the crucial test: keeping track of two widely separated fronts thru a monocle.—*Sen SOAPER*.

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Success used to indicate superior ability. Now, people just wonder what vitamins you're taking.—*ROBT QUILLEN*.

